



TRITRICHOMONAS MURIS

CLASSIFICATION

Order: Tritrichomonadida
Family: Tritrichomonadidae
Genus: Tritrichomonas

- Flagellated protozoa
- Anaerobic
- Direct life cycle
- Motile trophozoite form (16-19 x 7-9 μm) . pear shaped with 3 anterior flagella and an undulating membrane
- Pseudocysts (do not contain a true cyst wall)

PREVALENCE

The suggested prevalence of *Tritrichomonas muris* in laboratory and wild mouse populations ranges from 29 to 47%.

DIAGNOSIS

Direct microscopy, PCR

DISEASE/CLINICAL SIGNS

Tritrichomonas muris is generally non-pathogenic, but diarrhoea and anorexia have been reported as infection indicators.

STRAINS

There are 8 *Tritrichomonas* species, with *T. muris* infecting rodents. However there are several more Trichomonad species (*Trichomonas*, *Pentatrichomonas*) able to infect cattle, humans and others.

TRANSMISSION

T. muris is transmitted easily via the faecal-oral route, thus trichomonads can indicate barrier maintenance breaches in otherwise pathogen-free systems. The minimum infectious dose of *T. muris* is 5 pseudocysts.

INFORMATION SHEET



COMPAT
Your Partner in Research Facility Health Monitoring

INTERFERENCE WITH RESEARCH

The presence of *T. muris* in mice has not been reported to interfere with research results. However due to the significance of other Trichomonad species in other animals/humans and their disease outcomes, vigilance with good husbandry and management practices should be employed.

DURABILITY

Resistant to:

- chemotherapeutic elimination of trophozoites and pseudocysts in animals has not been successful

Susceptible to:

- disinfectants and autoclaving bedding material
- extended periods in environment (possibly viable in environment up to 2 days)

CONTROL

Maintain regular health monitoring of supplier sub-populations and strict protocols for barrier colonies. Exclude wild mice from facility.

POST INFECTION

Rederivation can be used to repopulate rodent colonies and strict protocols for barrier colonies.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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